

feel his loss so acutely here in this body. But his voice still echoes in this Chamber, and his spirit and fierce dedication to justice live on. What so many of us loved about Paul was that unparalleled passion he had for doing what was right. That still inspires me today, as it inspires so many others. And it is just one more reason to be thankful to Paul, and to honor his memory.

I think of Paul often as issues come before the Senate about which he cared so deeply. Earlier this month, as we observed Mental Illness Awareness Week, I thought of all Paul did to advocate for mental health parity throughout his time here, and what a vital contribution he made to getting affordable medical treatment to people suffering from mental illnesses. I have been proud to support this issue when it has come to the floor, and last week I joined the entire Democratic caucus in urging the majority leader to take up and pass the Senator Paul Wellstone Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act of 2003. We must ensure that mental illnesses are treated the same way as other physical illnesses by insurers.

Paul also fought to stop U.S. companies that move their headquarters to "tax haven" countries to avoid paying U.S. taxes from getting Federal procurement contracts. I am proud to be a part of the effort to move that forward. I also am proud to help carry on Paul's work in the fight for a good public education for every child. Paul believed, as I do, that every child is entitled to a good education no matter his or her circumstances in life. He called this "equality of opportunity." I was proud to work with him on the issue of standardized testing. He and I agreed that over-testing of our public school students is not the cure-all for public education. I hope that my efforts to return authority for decisions about how often to test students to the States and local school districts will, in some small way, build upon Paul's legacy of fighting for a level playing field for all students.

These are just a few of the causes Paul worked on, and just a few of the ways that he lives on in this body, and in the lives of the countless Americans he touched through his lifetime. We can still hear his voice echo in this chamber, urging all of us on to build a more just world. Let us honor Paul's memory by heeding his words, and carrying on the great work of our dear friend.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I will describe one such crime that took place in El Paso, TX. In April

2002, police qualified the murder of Hector Arturo Diaz as a hate crime. Mr. Diaz was shot in the back by an acquaintance, Justen Hall. At the time, Mr. Diaz, a transvestite, was dressed in female clothing.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, tomorrow, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will mark its 10th anniversary. More than 6,000 Holocaust survivors and family members will visit the museum this weekend to help commemorate the museum's important contributions. Together, these men and women comprise a living legacy of the Shoah. By sharing their memories, these courageous survivors can help ensure that such evil is never again perpetrated against any people, anywhere.

America is a land of immigrants, and our history demonstrates that we are stronger because of our diversity, not in spite of it. But we can only live up to the promise of our diversity if we recognize the inherent rights and freedom of all human life. One of the most powerful ways we can remind each other and our children about the importance of this fundamental principle is to ensure that the Holocaust is never forgotten.

For that reason it is fitting that the Holocaust Memorial Museum is located on the National Mall. Visitors to this cherished landmark can see the Declaration of Independence, the Wright brothers' glider, and some of America's most treasured art; all of them vivid reminders about the capacity of the human spirit and the promise of mankind. Yet it is just as important to teach young people and remind adults about one of the darkest chapters of human history. Although the Holocaust was a terrible tragedy that stained all humanity, it must never be hidden from view.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum plays a special role in teaching our children and grandchildren about this dark chapter in world history. This haunting permanent memorial will ensure that future generations will learn about this tragedy.

Survivors and liberators of the Holocaust have a unique opportunity to share the stories of this awful period. I thank them for having the courage and dignity to survive the horrors of the Holocaust, and for having the bravery to share their experiences with others so that it may never happen again. Their contributions will help all of us build a better America and a better world.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to address an issue of great concern to me—the ban on travel to Cuba.

Last week, the Senate scored an important victory in the fight to bring common sense to U.S. policy toward Cuba. We voted by a wide margin—59 to 36—to suspend enforcement of the travel ban. The House approved the same amendment in September, also by a wide margin.

The wide margin of victory reflects the majority of Americans who want an end to the travel ban.

Over the weekend, editorial writers from a diverse range of newspapers noted and applauded our victory: the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, and the Orlando Sentinel-Tribune.

Let me offer just a few quotes: the Chicago Tribune says:

In an age of very real terrorist threats, Cuba hardly makes the list. For the Department of Homeland Security to redouble its efforts and tie up more money and personnel in enforcing the travel ban against Cuba—as the president proposed two weeks ago—is an incredible waste of resources.

The New York Times points out:

The proper response to such outrages as the Castro regime's roundup of dissidents and writers earlier this year is to seek to overwhelm the island with American influence.

And the Orlando Sentinel argues:

The ban on U.S. travel is futile, self-defeating, a waste of scarce resources and inconsistent with other American policies.

These papers spoke out in favor of the Senate's actions because they recognize that the current policy has been a failure and because they know that engagement with Cuba is the best and most effective way to bring democratic change to Cuba.

In my view, the Cuba travel provisions should not even be subject to conference. The House and Senate have passed the same amendment; there is nothing for conferees to discuss.

There are many Members of this body who have worked hard to ease the embargo. Any Treasury-Transportation conference report that does not include the Senate and House-passed language is unacceptable, and we will look at all procedural options to stop this from happening.

That said, I fully expect this amendment to become law. Despite recent incorrect reporting, none of the supporters of this legislation believe that we can't accomplish our goal of lifting the Cuba travel ban.

And I have to say here that I do not believe the President will veto this bill. Of course, the Cuba provisions have overwhelming support, but the appropriations bill itself passed the Senate 90 to 3. The administration knows a veto could be easily overridden.

I do believe that pro-embargo forces see the writing on the wall. Momentum to end the embargo is clearly building. We have had a year filled with success.

Several months ago, Senators ENZI, DORGAN, and I introduced legislation, S. 950, that would permanently lift the travel ban. There are 31 cosponsors of that legislation, and we are adding new cosponsors this week.

The Foreign Relations Committee has committed to vote on that legislation by the end of the year, and I expect the committee to approve it by a large majority.

Recent polls indicate that most Americans oppose the travel ban. In fact, even most Cuban Americans—historically supportive of the embargo—favor lifting the ban.

So the Senate and the House votes are only the latest rebuke of an outdated policy.

Thirteen of the 16 Senate appropriators on the Subcommittee were supportive of the Cuba amendment. And I am confident they will work hard to keep this provision. But I also know they will be under some pressure. I urge them to stand up to those who might try to defy the will of the Congress.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the aforementioned editorials.

There being on objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 27, 2003]

HAVANA CLUB

The Bush Administration, more than most, contains people whose families have paid a personal price for the horror that is Cuban communism. Which is why it's a little unfair, after last week's Senate vote to lift the U.S. travel ban to Cuba, to dismiss the White House objections merely as worry that signing such language would hurt the President's re-election chances in Florida.

Yes, the Cuban-American vote is a big deal, as Bill Clinton recognized when he courted Miami's anti-Castro community and cash in his election runs. And given that the Senate vote approving the lifting of the travel restrictions was less than the two-thirds required to override any veto, we'd be surprised if the White House doesn't make good on its threat. But the tension here reflects what is a genuine argument among conservatives over what is the best way to bring Fidel Castro down.

Otto Reich of the National Security Council staff and Housing Secretary Mel Martinez believe that lifting such restrictions will breathe financial life into a decaying regime. Some of our free market friends in Congress, notably Arizona Republican Jeff Flake, argue that after 40 years of an embargo Fidel is still sitting pretty. So it's time to try something different.

We fall into the latter group, not least because one of the problems with the existing travel ban is that it is applied selectively. Privileged groups of people—academics, journalists, Cuban Americans and left-leaning Christian groups—can and already do travel to Cuba. Jimmy Carter travels there and CNN more or less treats it like a state visit.

But we're also impressed by Oswaldo Paya, leader of Cuba's homegrown answer to Poland's Solidarity movement, who wants to see the U.S. embargo lifted. Mr. Paya points out that the heart of the Cuban crisis isn't the partial embargo the U.S. has imposed on Cuba but is the total embargo Fidel has imposed on his own people: the limits on their speech, their ability to go to church, to run their own enterprises, and so on.

As Mr. Flake has written, Fidel's three most obvious failures are "breakfast, lunch and dinner." The more Americans are able to travel to Cuba, the more will be able to see for themselves the suffering that Fidel and his commissars have wrought.

[From the Orlando Sentinel, Oct. 25, 2003]

LIFT BAN ON CUBA TRAVEL

Our position: Removing restrictions on U.S. travel would expose Cubans to free ideas.

The U.S. Senate took a courageous and correct stand on Cuba policy last week.

Fifty-nine senators defied a veto threat from President George W. Bush in voting against the ban on U.S. travel to Cuba. Like a majority of U.S. House members, those senators realize that the ban is—if anything—counterproductive.

The ban is political rather than practical. It pleases many Cuban-Americans in Florida, but it and other hard-line measures haven't dislodged dictator Fidel Castro.

Restricting the freedom of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba limits the communist island's exposure to American ideas. It also helps conceal the extent of repression in Cuba from Americans. Those are both big favors for Mr. Castro.

The greatest threat to any totalitarian government is the free flow of information. That explains why independent journalists and librarians were targeted in the Castro government's brutal crackdown on dissidents earlier this year.

Enforcing the ban on U.S. travel to Cuba also ties up limited resources in both the Homeland Security and Treasury departments. Those resources would be better directed toward fighting terrorism.

Predictably, the White House criticized the Senate vote, saying it would "provide a helping hand to a desperate and repressive regime." But Mr. Bush's hard line on Cuba is contradicted by his continuing engagement with China, another repressive communist regime.

The ban on U.S. travel to Cuba is futile, self-defeating, a waste of scarce resources and inconsistent with other American policies. It's past time to lift it.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 25, 2003]

CONGRESSIONAL RESOLVE ON CUBA

Though normally inclined to follow their president's lead on foreign policy, many Congressional Republicans have now broken ranks on Cuba. By a wide margin, the Senate joined the House on Thursday in voting to ease travel restrictions to Cuba, just two weeks after President Bush vowed to toughen sanctions on the government of Fidel Castro and enforce them more energetically. The renegade Republicans apparently think that Mr. Bush's approach is dictated less by a coherent vision than by electoral concerns involving anti-Castro Republican voters in Florida.

This Congressional resolve is commendable. Four decades of sanctions have allowed Mr. Castro to portray himself, both at home and abroad, as a victim of Yankee imperialism. Mr. Castro would probably be as disappointed as his adversaries in Florida to see the sanctions lifted.

That is one reason he has a knack for provoking a backlash anytime there is a chance of a change in the status quo, which may be the best of all words for Mr. Castro. The dollars sent home from Florida relatives and the money spent by European tourists have kept the rickety Cuban economy afloat since the Soviet collapse. At the same time, sanctions imposed by the United States have kept democratizing influences at bay and provided the regime with a justification for its authoritarian ways.

The proper response to such outrages as the Castro regime's roundup of dissidents and writers earlier this year is to seek to overwhelm the island with American influence—corporate and cultural—and with American tourists and other private visitors. This is the approach we take in trying to democratize other nations.

The Senate's measure, an amendment to a \$90 billion spending bill to finance the Treasury and Transportation Departments, is identical to a provision approved overwhelmingly by the House. Such agreement means it will be hard for Republican leaders to try to kill the amendment behind closed doors. That leaves the possibility of a presidential veto, though the White House cannot relish the idea of holding up government spending to placate parochial interests in Florida, no matter how powerful. As the main beneficiary of this failed policy, Mr. Castro may want to call Mr. Bush and encourage him to get that veto pen ready.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Oct. 27, 2003]

CONGRESS' MESSAGE ON CUBA

Cues that it's time for the United States—and particularly the Bush administration—to abandon the 40-year-old embargo on Cuba got considerably louder on Thursday, when the Senate voted 59-36 to lift the ban on travel by U.S. citizens. The Senate measure is identical to one passed by the House a month ago.

The White House, tuned to an altogether different wavelength, threatens to veto any bill loosening the economic and travel sanctions against Cuba. Two weeks ago, President Bush—surrounded by a supportive group of Cuban exiles from Miami—announced measures to tighten the economic noose around the island.

It's no secret that the president wants to nail down the votes of the fervidly anti-Castro Cuban-American community.

But at what cost? Congress supports lifting the embargo, and so do many conservative Republican politicians and business interests—particularly in the Midwest. It is time to end the Cold War sideshow of the Cuban embargo.

Never has the American obsession with Cuba seemed so out of proportion or self-defeating, particularly for a Republican administration, as it does now. This is a question of national interest, not the political interests of the tiny but vociferous Cuban-American community.

Thursday's vote in the senate, on an amendment to the Transportation and Treasury spending bill, was important for several reasons. It showed a significant policy shift in the Senate since 1999, when the upper chamber rejected lifting the travel restrictions on 55-43 vote.

Supporters this time included 19 Republicans, including several from farm states such as Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Sen. Dick Durbin voted for the amendment. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald voted against it.

Fitzgerald ought to pay attention. Lifting the travel ban is a critical step toward eventually lifting the U.S. embargo on Cuba and opening the door for more trade. Illinois firms such as Archer Daniels Midland Co. benefit from increased sales of foodstuffs to Cuba, so far conducted on a cash-only basis. Last year total exports to Cuba reached nearly \$140 million, but it is estimated if all restrictions were lifted, that figure could increase significantly. Cuba would get better prices—Texas' rice is far closer than China's—and American farmers, strapped for markets, could benefit too.

In an age of very real terrorist threats, Cuba hardly makes the list. For the Department of Homeland Security to redouble its

efforts and tie up more money and personnel in enforcing the travel ban against Cuba—as the president proposed two weeks ago—is an incredible waste of resources.

This legislation is likely headed to conference committee, where GOP leaders must make sure the Cuba language doesn't mysteriously disappear. Congress ought to make clear its resolve to end the pointless flogging of Cuba. The embargo only intensifies the misery of the long-suffering Cubans while shortchanging U.S. economic and political interests. That makes no sense at all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. LILLIAN S. ROBINSON

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Mrs. Lillian S. Robinson of Mt. Sterling, KY on her selection as a 2003 Experience Works Time Award honoree.

Mrs. Robinson was nominated for this award for her dedication to the education of the children of Kentucky. A youthful 83, she serves as the assistant director of the Community Education Program in Montgomery County, where she organizes volunteer programs including Pee Wee Basketball, the Cookie Candy Club and Parent-Child Tea.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of Mrs. Robinson. Her example of dedication, hard work and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

Congratulations, Mrs. Robinson for receiving the 2003 Outstanding Older Workers award. You have my most sincere appreciation for your work and I look forward to your continued service to your of our Commonwealth.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FRENCHBURG JOB CORPS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate the members of the Frenchburg Job Corps of Mariba, KY on their "Make A Difference Day" program.

The Frenchburg Jobs Corps conducted a wide-ranging program of community service in Northern Kentucky. From cleaning parks to building handicap accessible ramps to visiting the elderly, these Kentuckians truly made a difference on October 24, 2003.

The citizens of Kentucky are fortunate to have the leadership of the Frenchburg Job Corps. Their example of dedication, hard work, and compassion should be an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

They have my most sincere appreciation for this work, and I look forward to their continued service to Kentucky.●

CARL AND FLORENCE CONTER'S 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Carl and Florence

Conter, lifelong residents of Wisconsin, on their 60th wedding anniversary. The country dance they met at began their life together blessed with family and friends to celebrate these years.

The couple was married at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Mishicot on November 6, 1943. Florence joined Carl on his family homestead in Two Creeks where he was born and lived for 85 years. It remained an active dairy farm until the late 1960s. Recently they have moved to Mishicot.

Today, many years after that first country dance at which they met, their story continues. Their children have grown up to be successful adults themselves, providing Carl and Florence with three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Family life and faith has been a rewarding and sustaining part of their long relationship. Carl supports Florence in her advocacy of senior citizen issues. They both enjoy playing sheephead and belong to several card clubs.

I join their many friends and their family in celebration as we honor Carl and Florence Conter on their 60th wedding anniversary. They are the very best Wisconsin has to offer, and I wish them continued joy and happiness.●

JAMES "JACK" MEEHAN: IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, James "Jack" Meehan of Santa Cruz, CA, who died on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Throughout his life he compiled an extraordinary record of devotion to his family, his community and our Nation. Jack was an 84-year-old longtime Santa Cruz resident, former Santa Cruz City Planning Commissioner and Santa Cruz Port District Commissioner, pilot, space industry pioneer, community volunteer and beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Jack was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He married Brenda McGourty in 1942 and she remained his devoted partner for 57 years until her death in 1999. Jack and Brenda had three children: daughter Diana and sons Terry and Tom.

He served as an Army air corps pilot in Europe during World War II. After his plane was shot down, Jack's bravery helped him successfully evade capture. We will always be grateful for Jack's heroic service defending our Nation, our freedoms and our way of life.

During the 1950s, Jack put his aviation skills to use as a Viking rocket designer and tester in New Mexico. He was a pioneer in this field because the Viking rocket was a precursor to the Vanguard rocket which launched America's first satellite.

In 1959, Jack and his family settled in beautiful Santa Cruz. Jack tested satellites at Lockheed Martin in nearby Sunnyvale. He continued to pilot small planes until he gave that up in 1977. But of course, Jack's irrepressible spir-

it kept him very active, and he began boating in the Monterey Bay. Like everything Jack did, he gave boating his all and joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary, assisting in sea rescues. He also taught weather forecasting and radio communications.

In 1981, he was appointed to the Santa Cruz Port Commission, a position to which he was twice re-elected over the next 17 years. He also served as a Santa Cruz City Planning Commissioner.

After Jack retired, he was a devoted volunteer for the Santa Cruz County Red Cross. He built HAM radio systems, travelled and practiced his French language skills. Recalls his son Tom, "Sports cars, TV's, HAM radios and computers were all puzzles to be unwrapped with his tools and insight."

His daughter Diana commented, "I most admire that he was brave and loving. He was romantic, tender and funny with my mother. He was a caring father." Throughout his life, Jack was constantly helping anyone in need. As one friend and neighbor explained of Jack and Brenda, "they always served the community."

Jack had a wonderful sense of humor. Even when he was sick and in the hospital, his caregivers would leave the room smiling because of his joking. "He had a quick wit that was kind, playful and relentless. He had a distinctive Jack Meehan laugh and you could find him in airports and crowded restaurants by that laugh," remembered son Terry. Added son Tom, "Whenever asked about his favorite time of life, he would always respond 'right now, and in the future.'"

James "Jack" Meehan is survived by his daughter Diana, sons Terry and Tom and six grandchildren. He was an exceptional man.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1720. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out construction projects for the purpose of improving, renovating, establishing, and updating